

Ms. B. 1. 1. 1.

THE
TRAVELLER'S
COMPANION.

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THE
TRAVELLER'S
COMPANION,
FROM
HOLYHEAD,
TO
LONDON.

LONDON:

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AND P. BROSTER, CHESTER.
MDCCXCIII.

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Entered at Stationer's Hall.



A Table of distances from HOLYHEAD
to LONDON.

| | MILES |
|---|-------|
| FROM <i>Holyhead to Bangor ferry,</i> | 25 |
| — <i>Bangor ferry to Conway,</i> | 17 |
| — <i>Conway to Abergele,</i> | 10 |
| — <i>Abergele to St. Asaph,</i> | 8 |
| — <i>St. Asaph to Holywell,</i> | 10 |
| — <i>Holywell to CHESTER,</i> | 18 |
| — <i>CHESTER to Nantwich,</i> | 20 |
| — <i>Nantwich to Woore,</i> | 8 |
| — <i>Woore to Eccleshall,</i> | 13 |
| — <i>Eccleshall to Stafford,</i> | 7 |
| — <i>Stafford to Lichfield,</i> | 18 |
| — <i>Lichfield to COVENTRY,</i> | 27 |
| — <i>COVENTRY to Daventry,</i> | 19 |
| — <i>Daventry to Towcester,</i> | 12 |
| — <i>Towcester to Stoney Stratford,</i> | 8 |
| — <i>Stoney Stratford to Dunstable</i> | 17 |
| — <i>Dunstable to St. Albans,</i> | 12 |
| — <i>St. Albans to Barnet,</i> | 11 |
| — <i>Barnet to LONDON.</i> | 11 |

ERRATA..

Page 6 line 8 for woud read would.

— 18 line 14 dele i.

— 22 line 18 for cloged read clogged.

— 25 6th and last lines read practicability.

— 36 line 6 for forrest read forest.

— 37 line 13 for pofession read possession.

— 42 line 14 for inexhaustable read inexhaustible.

— 90 read two pence every hundred yards.

— 92 last line dele p in appartments.

— 93 line 12 insert k in markets.

— 128 line 15 for female read female.

— 132 for sherriffs read sheriffs.

(X)

ing, but also in the manner of
the people, near appearance of
the house, ~~and in the~~
face of the whole country.

LETTER IV
and me again to cross the water
and not to see the improvements

DUBLIN, August 27, 1792.

DEAR SIR,
to my friend to make the necessary

A DESIRE that I have for
several years past enter-
tained, of once more travelling
through a country, and revisit-
ing scenes which in my juvenile
days afforded me much pleasure;
has been encreased by the repeat-
ed accounts that I have received
of the very great improvements
that have been made since I travel-
led, not only in the welsh roads and
Inns,

inns, but also in the manners of the people, neat appearance of the houses, and indeed in the face of the whole country.

I SAY these considerations induced me again to cross the water, and not to see the improvements in that country alone, but likewise *once* more to visit the metropolis; therefore having given orders to my servant to make the necessary preparations for my Journey, I embarked with my Nephew and in a few hours landed at *Holyhead*.

I HAD the pleasure to find the Houses here much improved, and better accommodations, but alas, on enquiring for persons of former acquaintance, they were dead, their names forgotten, and the place *knew them no more*.

HOLYHEAD

HOLYHEAD is a small town, and seems to have nothing to boast of, worthy the notice of the traveller, except the remains of some *Roman* walls, which are seen in the Church yard. The constant influx of passengers to and from *Ireland*, enliven this otherwise secluded place.

ABERFRAW in this Island was the seat of *Howel Dba* or *Howel the Good*, Prince of the united principalities of *Wales* about the year 940; his *Code of Laws* are yet existing, and evince him to have been a mild and judicious legislator.

There are no vestiges of the palace remaining; probably, most of the buildings were then constructed of timber, which may
account

account for the traces of many, not at this day to be discovered.

THIS bleak country seems to be ill cultivated and thinly inhabited, and so denuded, that one might be induced to think, the labouring people in the depth of winter woud do well to lie in bed, in order to save their fuel, which must here, from the appearance of the country be very scarce.

ARRIVE at *Gwindw*, Mrs. *Knowles's*, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from *Holyhead*, an Inn whose pre-eminence for comfort and accommodation to travellers, remains yet unrivalled—make an excursion from hence to visit the copper works at *Paris Mountain*.

PARIS

PARIS MINE produces the greatest quantity of *Copper Ore* of any in the kingdom; this vast body of mineral was discovered in 1768, after many unsuccessful trials, which had nearly exhausted the patience of the adventurers; the major part of the ore is not of the first quality, but the vein is said to be upwards of twenty yards thick, and of unknown length.

GREAT quantities of very fine copper are also obtained from iron being put into the water which flows from the mine, and occasions a transmutation of the metal from iron to copper. We were informed that the ore which is found in this mine, produces more brimstone than this kingdom can consume.

FEW.

Few persons of common curiosity and leisure, will travel through *Anglesea*, without visiting this wonderful mineral mountain.

It is the property of the *Earl of Uxbridge* and *Rev. Mr. Edward Hugbes*, and has been in part worked by *Mess. Roe's of Macclesfield*, the leasees under *Lord Uxbridge*, and *Mr. Hugbes*. We were informed the ore is worth five or six pounds *per ton*, and that the proprietors have had *forty or fifty thousand tons on the banks at one time*.

It would exceed the limits of my letter to give a full account of this great undertaking — to return to *Gwynedd*.

LETTER

LETTER II,

WE made another excursion from *Gwindw* to the right, and visited PLASNEWYD, the elegant mansion of the *Earl of Uxbridge*; it is beautifully situated on the bank of the river, where the vessels sailing up and down enliven the scene.

IT is built of stone in the gothic style, there are fine woods and plantations behind, and on each side of the house; in which are several curious remains of the *Druids*; the prospect in front is bounded by the *Carnarvonshire* mountains. Pass near FORT CÆSAR a house belonging to *Colonel Peacock*, built and finished in that elegance of style and taste, which distinguishes the worthy possessor.

THE

THE productions of *Anglesea* are so abundant, that it is called *The Granary of Wales*.

However productive it may be, the many uncultivated acres that are seen in almost every part, are a reproach to the land-owner, and testify much indolence, or want of enterprize in the tenant. With the great number of stones that almost every field is spread, good wall fences might be made, and the ground cleared from the many obstacles to the regular furrow of the plow; trees might likewise be planted in the hedge rows.

PLANTING seems to have been entirely neglected in this Island, except near gentlemen's houses, where you see a few trees, intended.

ed for shelter; how much might the scenery of the country be beautified, the wants of fuel, and timber supplied, by a disposition in the gentlemen of landed property to plant; and how much is it to be lamented, that this *amor patriæ* is wanting to effect so desirable a purpose.

WERE enclosures made in the worst and most barren parts of the island, in the course of a few years, woods might be raised that would be very profitable indeed.

The late Sir *Archibald Grant* of *Monymusk* in *Scotland*, planted in his own life-time, upwards of *forty eight millions* of trees; the present *Earl of Fife* plants immense quantities; *General Gordon* of *Fyvie* planted

planted *three millions* of different forest trees in one single enclosure, all on barren soils.

I do not recollect whether Mr. *Arthur Young*, to whose indefatigable labors in the improvement of agriculture and planting, we owe so much, ever made a *Tour* here; if he had, I think he would have been as angry with the farmers of *Anglesea*, as he was with those of *France*.

How laudable would it be, for the resident Gentlemen to show the world, the possibility of extracting a plentiful crop from a barren soil, and to force the cold and dreary moor to wear the aspect of the verdant lawn; and thus, by uniting a taste for general Improvement,
with

with the antient hospitality of the country, render their native *Wilds* a place of comfort and delight.

THE great numbers of *black Cattle* that are reared in this island, and exported to *England*, is the principal dependance of the tenants to raise their rents. I have seen numerous droves of them take the water at *Bangor Ferry*, and swim across the stream at high water, followed by the drovers in a small boat.

ALONG the turnpike road to *Bangor Ferry* we have a fine view of the *British Alps*, the mountains of *Snowden*, whose height Mr. *Pennant* reckons to be from the quay at *Carnarvon* to the summit, one thousand one hundred and eighty nine yards and one foot.

SNOWDEN

SNOWDEN was formerly a Royal Forest, well stored with deer; in such great numbers were they in the time of *Leland*, that they used to destroy the little corn which the farmers attempted to raise.

THE savage policy of *Edward I.* who ordered all the forests in *Wales* to be destroyed, was not completed in the time of *Leland*; who speaks of large and venerable oaks; but either avarice, or the want of fuel in latter times, has rendered this a leafless region.

Mr. *Pennant* says, that the inhabitants continue with their flocks and herds on the mountains, in summer dairy houses, as the farmers in the *Swiss Alps* do. That they manufacture and dye their own

own cloaths, that their diet is coarse oat bread, butter and cheese, their drink whey; always reserving a few bottles of strong beer, by way of cordial in illness; during the winter months they lead a vacant life in their old dwellings.

THE famous prophet *Merlin*, of whose miraculous birth, and wonderful prophecies so much has been told, lived in *Snowden*. Wolves infested this country formerly, they were extirpated by King *Edgar*, they continue at this time to be so numerous in some parts of *France*, as to oblige the inhabitants to house their horses and cattle during the night.

WE were prevented from visiting these wild romantic scenes,
but

but would recommend every curious traveller, whose leisure will give him an opportunity, not to leave the country without seeing *Snowden*.



LETTER

LETTER III.

BEAUMARES —

WE turned to the left, and in a ride of about five miles arrived at *Beaumares*, which is a small corporate town, with little trade; it has a good harbour for shipping, which frequently take shelter here. A new town-hall, with a handsome assembly room has been built here within these few years, at the
expence,

expencc, we were informed, of the member for the borough.

AT one end of the town is the castle, built by *Edward I.* where he frequently spent some months together, in order to complete the work of conquest which he had begun; it is now enclosed in the pleasure grounds of *Baron Hill*, the seat of *Lord Bulkeley*, which adds a grand object to his prospect, and at the same time, preserves this magnificent ruin from the dilapidations of mischievous persons.

THE castle is a noble structure, encircled with a strong wall, and circular towers at regular distances. The magnificent hall, and beautiful little chapel, with the adjoining oratories, merit the notice of travellers;

travellers ; it stands at the edge of the marsh, and commands an extensive prospect.

BARON HILL, the seat of festive hospitality, stands upon a beautiful eminence, commanding a view of the town and castle of *Beaumarès*, all the ships that pass between *Ireland* and *Liverpool* ; an extensive prospect over the sands, of the mountains, from the mouth of the river *Conway*, to *Snowden* ; also the turnpike road from *Penmaenmawr* to the slate-works at *Llandegai*. The house has been partly rebuilt by the present noble possessor, under the direction of Mr. *Wyatt* : the grounds owe their present beautiful arrangement to the taste of Mr. *Emes*.

D

To

To the introduction of these, and some other men of scientific knowledge and taste, *North Wales* owes its present improved appearance; the native workmen are apt, and not without a capacity to immitate, and under the direction of these artists have improved themselves, so as to entirely give a new formation to all the buildings that have been erected, or undergone any repairs within these late years.

I AM informed, that for grandeur of situation, and variety of prospect, *Baron Hill* stands at present unrivalled in *North Wales*. Return to the Turnpike road and reach *Bangor Ferry*.

ARRIVE at *Bangor Ferry-house* twelve miles and a half from *Gwindw*, where every degree of comfort

comfort and good accommodati-
on is received, from the united
civility of Mr, and Mrs. *Jackson*.

IN a field, near the house, a duel
was fought a few years ago by
Colonel Peacock, and *Captain Jones*,
which happily terminated in a
wound received by *Captain Jones*
in his knee.

THE *Harp*, that melodious in-
strument of native music, was
playing the favourite tune, *Of
noble race was Shenkin*,—the plea-
sure that danced in the eyes of
some young people in the house
was easily discerned. The *Welsh
Harp* and *Scotch Bagpipe* might
perhaps be stronger excitements to
action to the different people, than
any other music. At the battle
of

of *Quebec*, when the *Scotch* regiments were retreating, the General lamented to one of their officers, how ill they were likely to behave; he told the General, that he was wrong in giving his orders that the *Bagpipes* should not be played that morning; *Zounds!* cries the General, if that is the case, order them to play like the Devil—the well known sound was heard, they returned, and were victorious.

HOWEVER some persons, who retain a fondness for antiquity, may lament the cessation of the *Bards* and *Minstrels*; it must give pleasure to every lover of his native country, when he recollects, that notwithstanding the disuse of the *Welsh* language in common conversation, by the introduction of many

many *English* families amongst them, and the great influx of travellers, passing through the country, yet, that their *Mother Tongue* is likely to be perpetuated, by the elegant editions of the *Bible* and *Common Prayer Book*, which have been lately printed at *Oxford*, and dispersed by the care of the different Bishops through their diocese.

I FIND the fashion of wearing shoes and stockings, is more general here, than it was thirty years ago; when I have been frequently disgusted by the filthy appearance of the female waiters and chambermaids, having their bare feet clogged with mire and dirt.

IMPROVEMENTS of this kind have not kept an equal pace in *France*.

Mr.

Mr. A. *Young* in his Tour in that kingdom, says " It is not in the
 " power of an *English* imagination to figure the animals that
 " waited on us here. Some things
 " that call themselves by the Courtesy of *Souillac* women but in
 " reality walking dunghills. But
 " a neatly dressed, clean waiting
 " girl at an Inn, will be looked
 " for in vain in *France*. In speaking of their Inns, he says their
 " doors give music as well as entrance, the wind whistles thro'
 " their chinks. Windows admit
 " rain as well as light, mops,
 " brooms, and scrubbing-brushes
 " are not in the Catalogue of
 " necessaries in a *French* Inn."

AN undertaking to build a bridge
 across the *Menai*, near this place
 was

was conceived a few years ago; and Mr. *John Golborne*, whose integrity, and abilities, as an engineer, were eminent; was here for some time, and reported his opinion of the practicability of the scheme, and the expence. Very great objections were made on the part of the *Carnarvon* people to the work, urging, that it would obstruct, or destroy the navigation of the river to *Carnarvon*.

It is the opinion of many intelligent persons, that their objections might very easily have been removed, and this, much to be wished for, object accomplished, if *Golborne* had lived. The pointed rocks, and little isles, that at low water appear almost in a line across the river, seem strongly to justify the idea of its practicability.

THE

THE most agreeable time to cross the stream is at low water; the ferry is a safe one, but frequently rough and unpleasant, particularly when the wind sets in easterly.

WE were tempted to deviate from our rout, and visit *Carnarvon*.



LETTER

LETTER IV.

CARNARVON

THE Scenery in this little ride of about eight miles is almost every where delightful, the objects are various, and beautiful, and the alternate prospects of water, hills, and valies, feast the eye at every moment with novelty.

E

ARRIVE

ARRIVE at a comfortable Inn called the *Sportsman* in *Carnarvon*, the principal town in *North Wales*, it is situated on an elbow of land formed by the rivers *Menai*, and *Seont*, is a neat clean Sea-port Town, and boasts of perhaps the finest castle in *North Wales*, built here by *Edward I.* about 1280. The elegant turrets, placed upon the lofty octagonal, hexagonal, and sexagonal towers, exhibit a vast grandeur, even in their present mutilated state, and must in *Edward's* time, have had a terrific appearance to the newly subdued inhabitants.

In a very small dark room within the Tower, called the *Eagle Tower*, you are told that his beloved *Queen Eleanor* was delivered of the

the first *Prince of Wales*, afterwards the unfortunate *K. Edward II.* on April 25, 1284.

BUT I am convinced that they are mistaken, in supposing this dark, straight closet to have been the room; they do not observe, that, within the present walls of this tower, and close adjoining to this closet, there is a spacious apartment, with a fine large window, and chimney-piece; to which there was, probably then, a handsome staircase within the tower; whereas, the approach to this closet, is up the winding stone steps, without the tower. There is no doubt, that the *Queen* was delivered in this noble room; and that the other was one of the many small rooms, appropriated to the use of the soldiers,

diers, as it communicates with the gallery which goes round the *Castle*.

THE name of the principal architect was *Henry Ellerton*. The fortifications stand upon nearly two acres of land, and are said to have been compleated in one year; they were evidently built before the use of Cannon, as a summer-house upon a hill adjoining, commands a bird's eye view of the whole citadel.

THE Gates are majestic, and grand, over one of which, is the only representation of *Edward I.* which is to be found; the walls are of a great thickness, and built of the stone of the country.

IN the time of *Edward*, it was the

the metropolis of the principality; the courts of exchequer, chancery, and other law courts were kept here.

THE cheapness of provisions, pleasantness of situation, and friendly intercourse of the inhabitants, are inducements to many *Irish*, and other families to reside here.

THE antient *Segontium* where it is said the bones of *Constantine the Great* were discovered, is about a mile distant from the town. There are remains of walls yet standing, which have the appearance of *Roman* antiquity. Return by the same pleasant road to *Bangor Town*; where again I enquired in vain, for friends and acquaintances, long since gone to the land where all things are forgotten.

LETTER

LETTER, V,

CONWAY—

BANGOR is a small market-town of mean appearance, though very much improved since last I saw it. It is an *Episcopal See*, and boasts of great antiquity.

The present cathedral is *Gothic*, and appears to have been built in the

the time of *Henry VII.* It has received some great improvements and repairs, by *Dr. Warren*, Bishop of the Diocese; who with great taste, and at a considerable expence, has modernized the old palace; where his Lordship, with a distinguished hospitality, entertains the neighbouring gentry and clergy, and receives the blessings of a numerous poor, during a residence of one half of the year; shewing a laudable example to other Diocesans.

THE remains of several *Welsh Princes*, as also of Bishops and Deans, lie interred here.

HERE is an extensive prospect eastward, of *Bezumares*, the *Ormes-heads*, and *Penmaen-mawr*. Codfish, Salmon, Lobsters, Oysters, and other fish,

fish, are in great plenty along the *Welsh* coast; the beef, mutton, and lamb, small and sweet, but the greatest part of the veal is very ordinary indeed.

LEAVE *Bangor*, and in a short ride reach *Llandegai*, where the church makes a conspicuous figure, and contains the remains of *Arch Bishop John Williams*, a native of *Conway*; who at the commencement of the civil wars, was a zealous Royalist, and afterwards, on a supposed injury, assisted the parliamentary forces to subdue the castle of *Conway*.

A LITTLE below the church, is a village called *Aber Cegid*, by the side of a small rivulet, which here empties itself into the sea.

WHEN

WHEN

WHEN I travelled here some years ago, there were usually a few flates on the banks, which the small vessels carried to *Liverpool*, or *Chester*; but how much was I surprised to see a *forrest* of masts crowding into the Creek, some of them carrying two or three hundred tons, taking in their lading of flates to all parts of the kingdom.

WE were informed that near a thousand persons at this time find employment here; and that the sale of flates amounts to twenty thousand pounds yearly.

THE quarries, from which these immense quantities of flates are taken, lie at a few miles distance; and belong to *Lord Penrhyn*; to whose liberal spirit for improvement, and

acquaintance with the advantages of an active life, this country owes very great obligations.

GREAT numbers of slates are dressed and framed here, for the use of school-boys ; before these works were begun, all the slates used for that purpose, were imported from *Switzerland*, or *Holland*, very much inferior in neatness to these.

UPON the left hand stands *Penrbyn*, the elegant mansion of the noble possessor ; the situation is elevated, and pleasant, commanding a view of *Anglesea*, and the *Irish Sea*, and bounded on the other side by the *Snowden Hills*.

ON the site of this house stood formerly a castle, or palace, the residence

sidence of *Roderic Molwynog*, a *Welsh* Prince who reigned about the year 720. A large wood formerly enclosed the house, which the improved taste of modern times has in some degree removed; but the very extensive plantations which his Lordship makes every year, will in a short time change, the otherwise bleak aspect of the country.

THE castellated form of the house, with its elegant turrets, peeping above the trees, exhibit a charming object to the traveller. It has the appearance of being built of stone, but the front is faced with tiles, brought from *Southampton*, which upon a nearer approach, seem to be jointed like brick; the inside doors are of mahogany, brought from his Lordship's estates in *Jamaica*.

maica. The *antient drinking-born* is in the possession of this family.

AT a short distance, I was struck with the appearance of a house on the left hand, built in a stile of great neatness, on a spot, which I well recollect, to have been covered with fragments of rock and stones, interspersed with rushes, and roots of alder trees; and whose rugged appearance, seemed to have been continued from the Deluge, but now, *by the prophetic eye of taste*, assumes a new creation, and is seen with wonder and delight.

Mr. *Wyatt*, agent to *Lord Penrhyn*, has distinguished himself in the formation of this little Spot.

The river which once ran rugged
and

and unbounded in its course, is now confined within the margin of a pretty sloping lawn, and the progressive heights of the stream form beautiful cascades, and salmon leaps, seen from the front of the house; the turnpike road; over a bridge, crosses the view, which is terminated by the *Snowden hills*. It is called *Lime Grove*,

RIDE six miles, and reach *Aber*, a village very pleasantly situated at the edge of the *Lavan Sands*. I was pleased with the novelty of a neat house, and exceeding good accommodations here, the public are obliged to *Lord Bulkeley* for this agreeable stage between *Conway* and *Bangor*.

THE situation is delightful in
fine

fine weather; the grand *Groupe* of mountains, swelling one above another, seemingly contending for pre-eminence, and capped with snow, at almost all seasons of the year, range behind the house; whilst *Anglesea* presents its shores in the front, beautifully embellished with Gentlemen's seats, and the town and castle of *Beaumarès*.

HERE formerly stood a Castle, or palace, which commanded this pass into the mountains, and belonged to *Llewellyn the Great*, Prince of *North Wales*, who married the princess of *England*, and died in 1240. his coffin is now in the *Gwydier* chapel at *Llanrwst*.

THIS is a good sporting country, grouse, sea-fowl and woodcocks
are

are here in great abundance, which we were informed find a quick conveyance into *England*, since the roads have been so much improved.

WE rode to see a cascade in the neighbourhood, called *Rbyadr fawr*, or the great water fall; which though not large when we saw it, is, we were informed, in the rainy seasons, increased to a magnificent cataract. The sands opposite the Inn, which you cross at low water to *Beaumares*, supply the poor people here with inexhaustable quantities of cockles and muscles.

THE ride from *Aber*, over *Penmaen mawr*, and up the hill called *Sychnant*, to *Conway*, affords as great variety of prospect, and grandeur of scenery, as most in the kingdom.

I WAS

I WAS agreeably surpris'd, to find a dangerous steep precipice, had given place to a fine turnpike road, rising in a gentle ascent over the once dreadful hill of *Penmaen*.

THE public house, formerly kept here by Mrs. *Evans*, who entertained travellers with a comfortable, though plain accomodation, is now unfrequented. *Dean Swift* here wrote the following couplets, which were printed on each side of the sign-board.

Before you venture o'er to pass,

Take here a good refreshing glass.

On the reverse.

Now, this hill you're safely over,

Drink, your spirits to recover.

THE height of this mountain is about five hundred yards, the present

sent road is cut on the side of the hill, about one hundred yards above the sea, from the edge of which, a vast wall is built upon arches to the road, to support it at a part, where there was a defect in the rock. Above the road, the mountain rises with tremendous majesty, craggy, bleak, and barren.

SOME years ago, a clergyman, carrying a midwife behind him, fell down this dreadful precipice; his horse, and the woman were killed, but he, having received no hurt, took the saddle from the beast and carried it home.

THE appearance of the rocks, projecting over the road, seem to menace the traveller with instant
G destruction,

destruction; and the loose stones, which in the rainy and snowy seasons, roll down the hill into the sea, were sufficient reasons for spurring our horses to reach the bottom.

BEFORE this safe, commodious turnpike road was made, to which the kingdom of *Ireland* contributed liberally; travellers were obliged to wait till the tide went out, that they might cross the sands, under *Penmaen bach*; or otherwise to ride some miles over a bank of loose gravel, formed by the tide, and ascend *Sychnant*; then, a steep rugged precipice, to go to *Conway*; where we arrived in the evening, after a ride of 16 miles from *Bangor*.

LETTER,

LETTER VI.

CONWAY FERRY—

THE view of *Conway*, strikes the traveller with ideas of its grandeur, and magnificence. It stands upon a declivity, at the mouth of the river *Conway*. The town, which cannot boast of much elegance in buildings, is encircled by a strong wall, with twenty four semi-circular

lar towers at regular distances; on the south side stands the castle, built by K. *Edward I.* about the year 1284.

THIS castle is built in a style different from *Carnarvon*, though probably by the same masterly architect; all the Towers are round, and from the eight principal ones, rise elegant turrets, adding considerable beauty to the whole; in one of these towers is an arched window, in the form of a recess, supported by very neat pillars. Mr. *Pennant*, to whose ingenious labours, we owe a just, and entertaining account of his native country, says, " This, in antient times, was an elegant part of architecture, called the *oriel*, usual in the houses of people of rank; and appears, from a poem
of

of the very age in which this was built; to have been the toilet of the ladies, and probably, might have been that of *Queen Elinor*."

In her ORYALL there she was,

Clofyd well with royal glas,

Fulfilld it was with ymagery,

Every window by and by,

On each side had there a gynne.

Spread with many a divers pynne.

WITHIN the castle is a great hall, 130 feet long and 32 broad, the roof very lofty, supported by eight beautiful arches, where the conquering *Edward* held his levies, and issued forth mandates to his new subjects.

A REVOLT once happening here, *Edward* hastened to this strong fortress,

refs, already surrounded on the land side, by multitudes from the mountains, who had intercepted his provisions, and carriages; and by a sudden rise of the water in the river, his troops were prevented from following, or affording him assistance, which rendered his situation here for some time very alarming; the garrison being in such want of provisions, as to oblige the King to partake of very coarse victuals, equally with the common soldier; he was released from these difficulties, by the water suddenly subsiding, and the hasty retreat of the *Welsh* into the mountains. The King afterwards passed his Christmas holydays here festively, without molestation.

THOUGH, from the grand appearance

ance of these spacious apartments, large kitchens, cellars, and ovens, we may be induced to suppose that the possessors of them lived in great luxury, and splendor; yet, I am inclined to think, that there are very few, even of the *middle rank* of people, in these days, that do not lie down on more comfortable beds, eat their victuals better dressed, drink greater variety of liquors, wear better linen, and in short, are better accommodated than the nobility were in the time of K. *Edward I.* for we read of orders being then given, that *clean straw* should be put into the *King's* bed chamber every week.

THE best view of this superb structure is from the pleasure ground of *Owen Holland Esq.* a gentleman, whose

whose inclination, and power of doing good uniting, render him a valuable resident, in this his native country.

THE mode of travelling through *Wales* has been entirely changed within thirty years. Travellers going between *Chester* and *Holyhead*, were then obliged to take a guide, to conduct them safely over the almost tractless heaths, and mountains in *Flintshire*, and *Denbighshire*. The publicans now living, who remember those times, complain, that passengers now fly through the country, scarcely allowing themselves time to refresh; whereas formerly, they were used to drag heavily along the roads, continuing two or three nights on their journey.

BEGGARS,

BEGGARS, that reproach to every country where they are permitted, infested us at almost every Inn, it seems as if the provision that is made by parliament for the poor, encourages them in idleness, and administers support to their vices.

THE view at the bottom of the town of *Conway*, across the river, of *Marl*, *Bodscallen*, and *Dyganwy Castle*, bursts upon the sight of the traveller, through the arched gateway, in an uncommon manner.



H

LETTER,

LETTER VII.

ST. ASAPH—

WHATEVER improvements may have been discernible, in the country through which we have travelled, the disagreeableness of the ferry, and the rude, un-accommodating behaviour, of the ferry-men still continue.

WE

WE were informed, that Mr. *Williams*, member for *Great Marlow*, the opulent owner of this ferry, and of extensive estates in this neighbourhood, has expressed an intention of embanking the river to the rocky Island, which nature has very opportunely placed, within a very small distance of the walls of *Conway*; and to have a bridge, or a boat, to be worked by a rope to the shore, as at *Talycafn* ferry.

THE execution of a work of such public utility would reflect immortal honour on the spirited Projector, and the expences might in time be defrayed by a Toll or Pontage, imposed on carriages, and passengers, which would be chearfully paid. We had the pleasure to find a well accommodated Inn, on this
side

side the water, which, a few years ago, the traveller looked for in vain, Great quantites of *Mackrel*, *Herrings*, *Smelts*, and *Salmon*, are taken in this neighbourhood.

THE Castle of *Diganwy*, of which some small parts yet remain, stands upon a rock, highly elevated above the river, and boasts of being the residence of the *Princes of North Wales*, before it was destroyed by lightening about the year 816; it was rebuilt, and considered as a strong post about 876; we find it again restored to consequence by the *Earl of Chester* in 1098. It was again destroyed by *Llewellyn ap Iorwerth*, and rebuilt by the *Earl of Chester* in 1209. King *John* made a disgraceful retreat with his army from this place in 1210.

THIS

THIS pusillanimous Prince, is said to have drawn down the indignation of the Clergy, which involved him into a dishonourable humiliation, by a sally of wit which he threw, on the usual corpulence of the priests; *How plump, and well fed is this animal!* exclaimed he, one day when he caught a very fat Stag;—*and yet I dare swear he never heard Mass.*

UPON the adjacent eminence stand *Marl*, and *Bodscallan*, the former was destroyed by fire some years ago, the latter is one of the seats of Sir *Roger Mostyn*, the respected Knight of the Shire of *Flint*. The situation is fine, amidst surrounding woods, and commands a beautiful view. *Gloddaeth* is another seat of the *Mostyns*, situated on a Rock, embellished

embellished with plantations, and walks, commanding a variety of extensive prospect.

Much, very much, remains yet to be done, by the owner of these large possessions, to satisfy the admirers of planting and agriculture; though the country hereabout presents a less denuded appearance, than the parts which we have travelled through.

THE road from *Conway Ferry* to *Abergele*, 10 miles, is in many places straight, rough, and incommodious; but the once disagreeable, and dangerous precipice of *Penmaen Rhos*, no longer terrifies the traveller; the road is diverted from the defenceless, steep side, to the back part of the hill.

Not

Not far from this place, the ill-fated *Richard II.* was treacherously betrayed into the hands of his enemy *Bolingbroke*, and carried prisoner to the Castle of *Flint*. There are antique drawings of the unfortunate monarch's captivity at *Conway*, and of his interview with the usurper at *Flint Castle*, in the curious collection of *Strutt's* regal antiquities.

Pass by *Gwrch*, whose bleak situation calls aloud for plantations, to shelter it from the winter's blasts. On the right hand is a mountain of lime rock, which promises to be inexhaustible, vast quantities are shipped in vessels to *Liverpool*, and other places, and from it's proximity to the turnpike road, furnishes it with materials for improve-

provement; but it must be allowed, that notwithstanding these roads have received considerable repairs, yet, they have not kept an equal pace in improvement with those in *Carnarvonshire*, they are in many parts circuitous, and incommodiously narrow.

THE land here produces good grain, the valuable manure lime being close at hand. Reach *Abergele*, a small town on the edge of *Rbuddlan Marsh*.

I WAS agreeably surpris'd to find, that our road to *Chester* was not, as formerly, over this marsh; which was at all times rugged, wet, and dangerous, and often times impassable.

THE

THE Castle of *Rhuddlan* stands a conspicuous object on the left, at the mouth of the river *Clwyd*. It is built of red stone; the present ruins consist of a square Area, surrounded by a strong wall, having a stately round tower at each angle, encircled with a ditch, faced on each side with masonry, and was probably built by K. *Edward I.*

THIS was frequently the Seat of War, and the scene of dreadful carnage; the hard fought battle in 795, which occasioned the plaintive tune, *Môrfa Rhuddlan*, terminated in favour of the *Saxons*.

RHUDDLAN was the Seat of *Gryf fryth*, son of *Llewelyn*, who built a palace, and castle here about 1021. It has frequently undergone the

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various

various changes of being destroyed, and rebuilt, till it was finally dismantled, with many other stately castles by order of the levelling *Cromwell*.

EDWARD I, held a parliament here; the parliament house still remains. *Randle* Earl of *Chester*, being besieged in this castle by the *Welsh*, was relieved by a large body of rabble, collected at *Chester*, and commanded by *Roger Lacey*; for which service, his heirs, and all persons licenced by them, are exempted from the penalties of the vagrant act.

PASS through *Abergele*, and soon ascend the hill to the pleasant village of *St. George*, from whence is a very pretty prospect. Ride by *Kinmael*

mael House, and park, well furnished with deer, and many stately trees. *Oliver Cromwell*, it is said, frequently spent his leisure time here, with *Colonel Carter*, one of his officers, who then possessed this estate.

It was lately purchased by Mr. *Hughes*, one of the owners of the Copper Mine at *Paris Mountain*, who is now building an elegant mansion near to this pleasant site. *Sir Edward Lloyd* has built a handsome house, which is seen below *Kinmael*. Ride along a good road, and crossing a newly erected, handsome stone bridge, where formerly an incommodious wooden one stood; arrive at *St. Asaph*, a small town, and a Bishop's See. It is built on a steep side of a hill, and claims
the

the antiquity of having the See founded by Bishop *Kentigern*, about 544. who nominated *Asaph* for his successor, who died in 596, and was buried here.

THE Cathedral has since been several times re-built; having been burnt in 1402 by *Owen Glendwr*; it was afterwards restored by *Bishop Redman*; but having suffered the dilapidations of time, was lately repaired and beautified under the direction of Mr. *William Turner*.

THE *Bishop's* Palace has been entirely re-built by the present worthy Diocesan, Dr. *Bagot*.

THE beauties of the *Vale of Clwyd*, in which we now are, are not surpassed, perhaps not equalled, by any

any other vale in the kingdom. It is seen to the greatest advantage from the hills in the neighbourhood of *Ruthin*. The pastures are remarkably fine, oxen have been sold for fifty guineas each, that were fed in this vale.

LEAVE *St. Asaph*, and travel on a good turnpike road, the most in-commodious part of which, the steep hill of *Rhyall*, is repairing; and will be rendered an easy ascent, by the liberal contributions of the neighbouring gentlemen; thereby shewing a laudable example to those in other parts of the principality.

HERE again the eye is fatigued, with looking over great tracts of heath, and uncultivated land; which if enclosed, and improved, would
be

be a vast advantage, and ornament to the country; history says they were formerly covered with woods.

WE were tempted a few miles before we reached *Holywell*, to deviate from the direct road, and visit *Downing*, the residence of Mr. *Pennant*; to whose researches into natural history, and entertaining travels, the publick are not more obliged; than an extensive acquaintance, and numerous poor are, by his hospitality, and beneficence.

Downing is situated in a small vale, is built of stone, and has a very neat appearance; the grounds are laid out with great taste, are embellished with stately old oaks, and afford many fine views; a handsome spacious room, contains
a most

a most valuable library, and a large collection of beautiful drawings.

I was surprised to find the bye roads here, narrow, and in very bad repair; particularly, as they lead to Gentlemen's houses. I saw some large woods, which give ornament and shelter to *Mostyn hall*; the antient seat of the *Mostyns*; two sons of this house, bravely distinguished themselves, in the war in 1759, one an Admiral, the other a General. Return to the main road, and proceed to *Holywell*.

PASS near to a great number of *lead mines*, some of which we were informed are worked to great profit. Mineing, however sometimes meets with similar disappointments from the knavery of the Miners,

as

as Gentlemen at *Newmarket* do; from that of their Jockeys; for as *Alexander Stevens* says, *A Jockey's head can take the horse's head on which ever side the post he pleases*; so likewise, can the men employed in the mines, either discover or conceal the vein of ore, as it may best suit their purpose.

A GENTLEMAN having for a long time been unsuccessful in searching for ore, resolved to desist: but was encouraged by his workmen with fresh hopes. The rock, they said, was just cut through, which caused so much delay; or the soil was manifestly marked with signs of ore; or springs had appeared, which had the undoubted mineral tinge. Thus deluded by false hopes, he went on, till ruin stared him in the face.

AT

AT this crisis of his fortunes, a boy who wrought in the mine, came privately to him, and told him, he was deceived by his workmen; and that a vein of ore had been discovered, and secreted. These vile rogues intended to ruin their employer, and then to take the works themselves, at an under-rate. The difficulty was, how to benefit by the information without discovering the informer, who declared with tears, that he should be murdered if they knew he had told.

THE gentleman bad him fear nothing; and ordered him to loiter about the spot, where the vein was found, at such an hour the next day. " At that time, said he, I shall enter the mine; and observing you idle, will pretend to be

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very

very angry ; when you in a passion may throw down your tool as near as possible to the place, where the vein was found." The scheme was as well executed, as contrived.

At the time appointed, finding the boy in a place where he seemed to have no business, he rated him roundly for his idleness ; and receiving an insolent answer, he struck him two or three times : upon which the boy with great address counterfeiting a passion, threw his tool down, and said, he would work no longer for him. He marked the spot with unobserved attention ; and giving him a few more blows for his insolence, and bidding him go about his business, went on himself among the other workmen ; asking his usual string of questions, and receiving his usual string of answers.

At length, he took up a tool; and beginning carelessly to pick about the chambers of the mine, in various places, came by degrees to the spot he had marked, where picking a little about the surface, he seemed surprised; and calling some of the men, he asked them, if they did not think there were plain indications of ore? The men were of a different opinion, and assured him, that such appearances were very common, and not in any degree to be relied upon. The owner however still continued to pick about, and told the men, he could not be satisfied, unless they took their tools, and searched a little deeper. With some reluctance, as being taken from work of more importance, the men complied.

BUT

BUT they had not occasion to go deep; for a very few strokes convinced all who were present, not only that there was ore, but that the vein was uncommonly rich.

THE honest workmen, joining in the farce, asked each other with pretended astonishment, *How they could possibly work so near the place, without discovering it?*



LETTER,

LETTER VIII.

HOLYWELL—

HOLYWELL, 10 miles from *St. Asaph*, is the most considerable market town in *North Wales*, and the most populous. The famous Well of *Saint Winefrede* springs from the side of the hill, and throws up twenty-one tons of water in a minute.

IT

It is enclosed by a neat arched building, with a chapel above, supported by pillars. A drawing of it was lately taken, and engraved by Mr. *John Ingleby*. This was in the times of Romish superstition, the resort of royal, and noble pilgrims; nor has it yet lost its healing powers, in the opinion of many people.

THE legend of *St. Winefred's* head being cut off by the *Welsh Prince, Cradocus*, and miraculously re-united, by the prayers of *St. Beuno*, forms a volume, in the life of that saint, written by *Bishop Fleetwood*.

THE spring of water, which it is said instantly flowed from the spot, where the head rolled down to, is perhaps,

perhaps, the greatest in the kingdom. At this time, the benefits which trade, and manufacturers, receive from it, are great indeed.

THERE are three large buildings, erected on its stream, belonging to *The Cotton-twist Company*; a business which is here carried on, to a degree of extent, and perfection, exceeding any other in the kingdom.

HERE, industry invites men, women, and children, in vast numbers to partake of her benefits; and of course, the enjoyment of the comforts, and conveniences of life.

THE great copper works, belonging to the *Paris Mine Company*, are also worked by this powerful stream. The copper is brought here, and
being

being melted into ingots, or pigs, then passes between large iron rollers, or under great hammers, which reduce it to a thickness, suitable to the different purposes of sheathing ships, making pans, &c. and also for halfpenny, and penny pieces, great quantities of which, are in circulation here, stamped with the *Druid's head*, and made acceptable by the *Paris Mine Company*. There are corn, and other mills, worked by this stream; and the banks are likely to be covered with works, partaking of its benefits, down to the level of the sea.

The ruins of the antient Abbey of *Basingwerk*, which stand below the town, deserve a visit from the curious traveller. This was in the reign of *Henry II.* and *Edward I.*
a place

a place of great consequence, and the Abbots held their seats in parliament.

NOTWITHSTANDING, I have in my journey, been frequently surprised at alterations in the appearance of things, and places; yet, I must confess, that in my apprehension, there is nothing, that has suffered a much greater change, in its price and appearance, than a *Bottle of Wine*; which now, being generally in the proportion of two quarts, filling three bottles; is, when decanted, under the scrupulous nicety of the waiter, reduced to a sober quantity indeed. Surely magistrates might be justified in regulating the sizes of bottles, as of pewter measures.

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LETTER,

LETTER, IX.

HAWARDEN—

LEAVE *Holywell*, and pass through *Halkin*, which commands a fine view across the water, of the distant *Lancashire* hills, *Wirral*, and *Parkgate*, *Hilbree Island*, and the estuary of the *Dee*. Earl *Grosvenor*'s valuable lead mines are on the adjoining mountain; the farm of which, we were informed,

informed, produced to his lordship, upwards of eight thousand pounds *per annum*. They were granted to Sir *Richard Grosvenor*, by K. *Charles* I. in 1634. A mine belonging to his lordship, produced in one quarter of the year 1792, fourteen hundred tons of ore, which would be worth about seven, or eight pounds *per ton*.

THERE are several mines, seen near the road, belonging to other gentlemen. The ride along this improved country, treats the traveller with variety of beautiful prospects. Pass through *Northop*, the village is mean, and dirty, but the church makes a good appearance; the country is in fine tillage, and has a show of good timber.

UPON

UPON the flat below, at the mouth of the river *Dee*, stands *Flint town and Castle*; which appears to have been a square building, with very large round towers at the angles; one is called the double tower; the thickness of the walls, must have been proof against any attack that could have been made before the invention of gunpowder.

It has galleries round the court, and a strong *keep*, or dungeon, and was built in the time of K. *Henry II.* and *Edward I.* The unfortunate *Richard II.* surrendered himself a prisoner here, to the *Duke of Lancaster*, by the perfidious treachery of the *Earl of Northumberland*, who had that morning, whilst at *Mafs*, in *Conway castle*, taken an oath of fidelity to him. The devoted monarch was conveyed to *Chester castle*.

FLINT

FLINT was likewise the prison of the inoffensive *Edward II.* It is true, as was observed by a captive prince, that, " there is but a short space between the prisons, and graves of kings. " The base *Mortimer* imprisoned him in the castle of *Berkeley*, where he suffered an agonizing, and torturous death; having a horn thrust into his fundament, through which a red hot iron was introduced, which burnt his bowels.

THIS castle having made a gallant defence, against the parliamentary forces, was obliged to surrender on *August 29, 1646*, to *General Mytton*. It is nearly opposite to *Shotwick Castle*, in *Wirral*; from whence, it appears, by the *Rolls* in the *Tower*, that *Edward I.* issued several

several mandates, to the Abbots of *Basingwerk*, and *Conway*.

THESE roads have received great repair, having had several substantial bridges erected, and the deep vallies levelled within these few years. There are not many rides of an equal distance, that afford more variety of fine prospects; the view across the sands, of the Hundred of *Wirral*, with *Neston*, and the vessels and houses at *Parkgate*, are delightful objects on one side; whilst an improved, and well wooded country embellishes the other.

THE woods of this country were formerly famous in history; *Henry II.* experienced their almost impenetrable thickness, when, in attempting to pass through them, he
received

received a defeat at *Coed Ewloe*, near the 8th mile-stone on this road, from *David* and *Conan*, the sons of *Owen Gwynedd*. There are fragments of an old Castle remaining near this spot, built probably by *Henry* afterwards, to prevent such another surprise.



LETTER,

LETTER, X.

 CHESTER—

PASS through *Harwarden*, 5 miles from *Northop*, where the remains of the antient Castle stands upon a hill on the right hand. This fortress, from it's situation on the borders of *Wales*, within a few miles of *Chester*, frequently changed it's masters; being sometimes found in the

the possession of the *English*, and at other times, valiantly recovered by the *Welsh*. In the civil wars, it underwent the same vicissitudes, until the able General *Mytton* took it on *March* 17th 1645; and it soon after suffered the fate of other Castles.

THE remains of this fortress are not now considerable; a large round tower, appears to be preserved with care, the other parts seem to be left to decay. The infant son of the late Sir *Stephen Glynne*, owns this castle, and large possessions in the neighbourhood. The late Sir *John Glynne*, of respected memory, built a handsome mansion here, and with a laudable foresight, not alway possessed by Gentlemen of fortune; made large plantations of oak

M

and

and other trees; thereby converting a barren unprofitable waste, into a wood of fine timber. This country abounds in coal, several fire-engines are erected to drain the water from the pits.

PASS by the village of *Bretton*, and come upon *Saltney*; in my remembrance, an almost impassable marsh; but now has a good turnpike road over it; and the fields in good tillage on each side, afford pleasure to the traveller, and advantage to the owners.

HERE *Henry II.* encamped with his army, after his defeat at *Ewloe*; and *Edward I.* had likewise a camp here, in his march to subdue *Wales*. It was probably a field of battle in those days; as I am informed, that
when

when the *new Cut*, or *Navigation*, of the river *Dee* was made through these Sands ; that the labourers found helmets, spear-heads, and other implements of war, buried beneath the surface.

ASCEND a rising ground, which seems to be formed into mounds, probably to command this pass. Ride by a pleasantly situated house, which belonged to the late worthy *Thomas Cowper* esq. Recorder of *Chester* ; by whose death, that City lost an able and respectable officer, his friends a most valuable, and pleasant companion. Ride over the Bridge, which here crosses the *Dee*, and find the ancient gates, which defended the bridge, are removed ; and this approach to the City, is now under an elegant Arch of white stone.

LETTER,

LETTER, XI.

CHESTER—

THIS ancient City claims its foundation in very remote antiquity. It was a *Roman* Station, as appears from numberless altars, tiles, coins, and other antiquities, that have been discovered here. The situation is elevated, and the air uncommonly salutary; as the longevity, and healthy appearance of the inhabitants testify. HERE

HERE are nine churches; the cathedral is a venerable pile, the choir very handsome, ornamented with gothic tabernacle work. The Bishop's throne is a curious piece of sculpture, ornamented with images, representing the ancient *Saxon* Princes.

THE Chapter House is a beautiful piece of *Gothic* architecture; in which the body of *Hugh Lupus* the first *Earl of Chester*, and nephew to the Conqueror, was discovered some years ago.

THIS City is built in a singular manner; the galleries, or *Rows*, in which the inhabitants walk; and which range before the fronts of the houses in the principal streets, are unparalleled; and below which,
the

the streets are sunk, and cellars still deeper than the streets. These *Rows* are commodious for transacting retail business; accommodating the people with a security from wet or heat, and afford a fine dry walk of considerable extent, to the aged, and infirm.

It is not considered as a place of very extensive trade, though it is a sea port, and vessels of 3 or 400 tons load at the quays. The valuable article *Cheshire cheese* is exported from here in great quantities. It is computed to contain upwards of fourteen thousand inhabitants.

We were informed, that some Manufacturers from *Manchester*, had lately established *Cotton Works* here; and

and that others were induced from the cheapness of provisions, soon to add to the number of these encouragers of arts and industry.

THIS City may boast of a walk, unequalled in the kingdom. The CITY WALLS, which were the ancient fortifications, and now surround the city, in a walk of near two miles; are the admiration of travellers. Such various beautiful views, as their elevated situation commands, are not frequently to be seen; and they are kept in very good repair, by a duty of two pence in the pound, on all *Irish Cloth* imported here.

Two elegant arches, one at the *Bridge*, and another at the *Water-gate*, have been erected by the Body Corporate,

Corporate, under the direction of Mr. *Joseph Turner*; and another at the *Eastgate*, at the expence of *Lord Grosvenor*. When the old *Northgate* gives place to such another as any one of these, all the approaches to this City will be very handsome.

THE *Race-ground*, which is close to the *City Walls*, is situated in a manner, so as to afford the spectators a better opportunity of seeing the diversion, than any other course in the kingdom.

HERE is a Castle, with a garrison of Invalids; and a new *Goal* erecting, which when compleated, will be I suppose, as elegant a *Mansion of wretchedness*, as any in the kingdom.

IN

IN addition to the many bloody battles that were fought in this neighbourhood, this loyal City underwent a long siege, in the time of the civil wars. The unfortunate King, *Charles I.* had the mortification of seeing his army defeated, from the battlements of one of the towers.

THE *Infirmary, Blue-coat Hospital*, and other charitable Institutions, bear testimony of the liberality, and beneficence of the inhabitants.

THIS City is governed by a Mayor, Recorder, twenty four Aldermen, and forty council-men; and has the power of life and death, within it's own jurisdiction. The Sheriffs are obliged, by antient usage, to furnish the appartments, for the
N Judges,

Judges, whilst on the circuit here; and also to execute the County criminals. It sends two members to Parliament, and gives the title of *Earl of Chester*, to the *Prince of Wales*.

THERE are no large towns, perhaps in the kingdom, where persons of independent fortunes, can live more agreeably than here. Assemblies, plays, and other amusements, are found here. The markets are well supplied; coals, and every other necessary, are obtained upon full as easy terms, as in any other place.

LETTER,

LETTER, XII.

TARPORLEY—

LEAVE *Chester*; in passing through the suburbs, the traveller is treated with a beautiful view across the river *Dee*, few spots afford a prettier landscape.

Cross the *Canal*, an expensive undertaking, which either through ignorance,

ignorance, or bad management of the persons employed, remains at this time without any trade; we were informed, that it was rashly begun, and carried on without any probability of advantage to the proprietors.

RIDE along *Stamford beath*, which they are enclosing, and will thereby change the present rough surface, to arable, and pasture lands.

PASS through the village of *Tarvin*, where the famous Penman, Mr. *Thomasine* taught school. I have seen some *greek* characters, of his writing, admirably well executed; his Penmanship remains, perhaps, yet unequalled.

PASTURAGE seems to be the principal object of the farmers in this

this country, especially whilst cheese takes the great price, which it has done, for some time past; it is made with so much less expense, trouble, and uncertainty, than the raising of corn; that, in general, they sow but little more grain, than what is necessary to supply them with fodder, and litter for the cattle, and corn for their own use.

THE *Forest of Delamere*, ranges along the road, on the left hand; containing many thousand acres of uncultivated land; it maintains a great number of rabbits, sheep and foxes. The City of *Edisbury* formerly stood on this forest, which gives name to one of the hundreds of the County. The title of *Lord Delamere* is now in the family of the *Earl of Stamford*.

AFTER

AFTER a pleasant ride of 10 miles, reach *Tarporley*, a market town, situated on a rising ground, which commands an extensive view over a rich fertile country, of the *Flintshire*, and more distant *Denbighshire* hills; from those near *Llanrwst*, quite down to the *Point of Air*, at the entrance of the rivers *Dee*, and *Mersey*. On the left hand range *Beeston Castle*, and the *Peckfreton Hills*. Rode to see the Castle.

The present remaining ruins of *Beeston Castle* stand upon an insulated rock; it was built in 1220. by *Randle Blundeville*, *Earl of Chester*. The fortifications have been exceeding strong, and must, before the use of cannon, have been impregnable; being elevated 120 yards above the level of the *Canal*, which
runs

runs near it's base. On the accessible side, it was defended by an outward wall, with many semi-circular towers, at short distances; on the other, by a steep precipice.

THE upper works, or *Citadel*, have several round, and angular towers, and a vast ditch, cut out of the solid rock to defend it's approach. The extensive prospect it affords, compensates for the fatigue of the walk; it is now the property of Sir *Roger Mostyn*, of whose large possessions I have made mention before. We were informed, that from the rising grounds near *Mostyn*, in *Flintshire*, the view is bounded on one side by his estates at *Glodaeth*, in *Carnarvonshire*, and on the other side by these his estates in *Cheshire*. Return to *Tarporley*.

WE

WE were told that a handsome fortune had been acquired by a person here, in the trade of making leather breeches; with which part of dress he had the honour to fit his Majesty. In the Church, are several monuments, belonging to the families of the *Dones*, and *Crewes*.

A LOCAL injury that my nephew had received, by riding so long on horse-back, obliged him, at one of our stages, to enquire at an Apothecary's shop, for some *white* ointment; the apprentice told him, *they had none*. The master, with some degree of anger, said, *if we have no white, you know we have brown enough*; which reminded me of a story that I have heard of an apothecary, who well knew the disadvantage

advantage of being at a loss for any article, that should be enquired for; when his boy sent a customer away unserved, who was in want of some plantain water. *Sirrah!* said he, *though you could find no aqua plantaginis in the shop, you might have found aqua pumpaginis enough in the yard, and that would have done just as well.*

CROSS a small heath, on several spots are seen plantations of trees; this is the first improvement of the kind, we have met with; the laudable example is set by the hon. Mr. *Tollemache*,

OBSERVE great numbers of dairy cattle, in seemingly good pastures. The Church of *Bunbury* rears it's tower, amidst the trees on the right
O hand;

hand; the ancestors of the present Sir *Charles Bunbury* had formerly their residence, and large possessions here. The church is a handsome pile, built in the reign of K. *Henry VII.* The effigy of the famous warrior, Sir *Hugh Calveley*, who performed prodigies of valour, in the time of *Edward III.* lies at full length here; as also some of the knightly family of the *Beeftons*, of *Beefton*.

RIDE along *Whatfield Pavement*, which the legend of the country gives the *devil* the credit of laying, in one night; as his *black highness* is not supposed to be often employed in works of public utility; it would be well, if the commissioners of the turnpike would compleat the *job*, by laying *gravel* upon it.

THE

THE wreck of the unfortunate canal accompanies us to *Acton*.

THE Church here, is very handsome, and contains several fine monuments belonging to the families of the *Manwarings*, and *Wilbrahams*; it is supposed to be the handsomest village church in the county.

ON the right hand, embosom'd in trees, stands *Dorfold*, formerly the seat of the *Wilbrahams*, now belonging to *James Tomkinson*, esq. I here observe pretty plantations of trees, upon those parts of the road, as are unnecessarily wide; it would be well, if this mode was more generally practised.

LETTER,

LETTER, XIII.

NANTWICH—

ARRIVE at *Nantwich*, 20 miles from *Chester*, which is a considerable market-town, and from the style, and appearance of some of the buildings, has a claim to antiquity. Here are *salt-springs*; the salt made, pays an annual duty of about five thousand pounds. Here are some modern

modern built houses, and a hall, for the dealers in linens, and *Yorkshire Cloths*, to expose their goods in, during the Fair. The inhabitants here are exempt from serving on juries, by making the *chief Justice* a present of a *cheese*, on his appointment to that office.

THE Church is a handsome old pile, the stone roof is prettily ornamented. This town was, in the time of *Charles I.* singular for its *disloyalty*; I believe we have the happiness, at this time to say, that there reigns such an almost universal spirit of loyalty, and attachment to our *beloved King*, and *glorious Constitution*, that there are no disloyal towns, and but few disloyal persons.

THE

THE cheefe which is made on farms, where the salt springs are, is reckoned to excel any made in other parts of the county; there are some farms, whose cheeses never weigh less, than a hundred weight each; these being of the best quality, are alway sent to the *London* market.

SIR *Robert Cotton*, has ordered a cheefe to be made, at a farm in this neighbourhood, held by Mr. *Heatb*, under *W. Yoxall*, esq. which, when at a proper age for eating, will weigh near thirteen score; it is intended for a present to his Majesty.

I do not perceive, that the culture of *turneps* is encouraged here. Mr. *Young* says, " that within these
last

last fifty years, this nation has profited 150 millions, by the cultivation of *turneps*, *sanfoin*, and *clover*. The cultivation of the very valuable root, *potatoe*, is greatly adopted in this county, the lightness of the soil encourages their growth.

THE widow of our prince of poets, *Milton*, ended her days near this town, she was a *Cheshire* woman.

LEAVE *Nantwich*, and ride over a flat heavy country. A few miles on the left stands *Crewe*, the ancient mansion of the *Crewes*; the house is a magnificent structure built by Sir *Randle Crewe*, chief justice of the King's bench, in the time of Q. *Elizabeth*.

THE grounds here are laid out by Mr. *Emes*, and have some beautiful

tiful rides, and walks, through the extensive woods, and plantations, made by the present gentleman. In the servant's hall here, the table is an entire slab of ash, near ten yards long, and of the entire width of one yard, and four inches thick; such another tree, as this was, perhaps, does not grow in the kingdom.

A FEW miles further, is *Doddington*, formerly the seat of the *Delves's*. The present owner, Sir *Thomas Broughton*, is building a superb house, on a very pleasant site.

REACH *Woore*, a small village, 8 miles from *Nantwich*. About two miles from hence, is the village of *Muccleston*; on the steeple of this church, the faithful wife *Queen Margaret* stood a melancholy spectator of

of the defeat, and slaughter of the friends of her unfortunate husband *Henry VI. on Blore beath.*

PASS over *Mere beath*; near this place, are appearances of several antient *Saxon fortresses*, as likewise of *tumuli*, or barrows, in which are probably deposited, the bodies of fallen heroes.

PASS through the village of *Darlstone*; near here is the head of the river *Trent*, which we cross near *Stonefield beath*, where the Duke of *Cumberland* encamped with his army, in 1745. How valuable to society, and the cause of humanity, are the blessings of peace; and how almost incredible does it seem, that in this land of true liberty, and toleration; where every man's pro-
P. perty

perty is sacred to his own use, and where every person freely enjoys, and exercises their own religious sentiments; that there should exist persons, who could impiously wish, to destroy this glorious fabrick,
The English Constitution.

HERE runs the great *Staffordshire Canal*, which joins the eastern and western oceans, begun on the 17th of July, 1767, and is upwards of ninety three miles in length.

HERE, human art and industry, surmounting all obstacles, carries it's level over vallies, and rivers, upon vast aqueducts, supported by a great number of arches; and in other places, piercing through mountains, and rocks; in one part, to the amazing extent, of two thousand, eight hundred,

hundred, and eighty yards; accomplishing purposes, which, a few years ago, would have been deemed impossible.

THERE are near two hundred bridges, and seventy-five locks, upon this canal; and upwards of a hundred boats are employed, each carrying twenty-five tons, and drawn by one horse; the tonage is three halfpence a mile.

It joins the *Duke of Bridgewater's* Canal at *Runcorn*, in *Cheshire*.

To the unexampled spirit, and exertions of this nobleman, the nation is greatly indebted; for by these stupendous undertakings, an internal communication is secured in time of war; corn, and every
other

other produce of the country, is cheaply conveyed to it's different parts; coal is now obtained at a moderate price, where it was before never used; the several articles of manufacturers, are carried with more dispatch, and at an easier rate; and numberless other advantages are derived, from the enterprise, and indefatigable attention of this nobleman.

NOR must the unequalled genius, and abilities, of Mr. *James Brindley*, who contrived, and directed this great work, be ungratefully forgotten. As *Shakespear* says,

“ *He was a man, take him for all in all, We shall not look upon his like again.*”

THE

THE proprietors of the *Staffordshire Canal*, now receive the reward of their perseverance; notwithstanding the many obstacles, that short sighted, and narrow minded people, flung in the way of this scheme, they have now the pleasure to see, it affords general satisfaction, and universal benefit to the country.

PASS through *Stone*, and for some time ride in a pleasant valley, near the course of the canal. On a hill at a small distance, stands *Sandon* church; a lawsuit for this manor, once occasioned a duel between the *Duke of Hamilton*, and *Lord Mobun*, fatal to both. On an eminence, stands a handsome house, built by *Lord Archibald Hamilton*, surrounded with beautiful plantations.

AFTER

AFTER a ride of several miles, which affords nothing worth observing, come in sight of the charming *Vale of Skugborough*, where nature shows herself, in almost every pleasing variety. In the pastures are seen feeding, numbers of beautiful white cattle, whilst swans cover the waters of the *Trent*, and *Sow*, which wind delightfully through the vale; the great trees, in *Cannock wood*, overlook the whole with majestic grandeur. The elegant mansion of Mr. *Anson*, together with many other objects, combine to render this an enviable residence; and which, travellers that have leisure, will not pass without visiting.

LETTER,

LETTER, XIV.

STAFFORD—

STAFFORD is a county town, the houses make a good appearance; the town hall is a very handsome building. Here are now only two churches; but it formerly held a great number of religious; of the different orders of nuns, friars, and canons.

THE

THE town is governed by a Mayor, Recorder, ten aldermen, and twenty common council, and sends two members to parliament ; the elections here are generally contested with great spirit.

WILLIAM the conqueror built a castle here, which was garrisoned in the civil wars ; tradition says that the amazonian *Ethelfleda* built a castle here, in the year 913.

THE general complaint of the incivility, and want of attendance, which passengers in the *Mail*, and *Stage Coaches*, meet with, from Innkeepers, and waiters ; calls loudly for the exertions of some spirited traveller, to punish these *rude sons of Boniface*, in the court of *King's Bench*.

HERE

HERE linen cloths are manufactured, to a considerable amount, the inhabitants partake of the benefits of the inland navigation; but the immense quantities of *earthen ware* that are made at the *potteries* in this county are astonishing. The taste of Mr. *Wedgewood*, in the formation of a variety of elegant pieces of ornamental, and useful articles, is eminently distinguished.

THE hardware trade, in different parts of *Staffordshire*, is carried on to an amazing extent. In these great articles of commerce, I believe, the *English Nation* stands at this time unrivalled.

LEAVE *Stafford*, and cross the canal at *Radford bridge*, which from the number of boats, appears like

Q

a little

a little sea-port. The *vale of Skugborough*, again delights the traveller, whilst *Cank wood*, and the plantations of oak, and pines, about *Heywood park*, add to the beauty of the scene. In a short time, the *vale of Colwich* presents itself, in all the charms of natural, and artificial beauty.

AGAIN cross the canal at *Bishton*, and come to *Wosley bridge*. *Wosley*, the seat of the *Wosley's*, is built in a low situation; but the woods, and park above, are extensive, and very pleasant.

IN the neighbourhood is *Blithfield*, the antient seat of the *Bagot's*; whose valuable collection of paintings, and coins, are seen with admiration. In this park of magnificent oaks, one was sold for 120l.
and

and others for, 60l each, fallen from amongst many of equal size.

PASS through the villages of *Rudgley*, and *Longdon*. The houses in the latter, are placed at so great a distance from each other, as to occasion the following lines,

The stoutest beggar that goes by the way,
Cannot beg through LONG in a summer's day.

THE situation of Mr. *Ashton Curson's* house, above *Rudgley*, is very pleasant.

BEAUDESERT, formerly the magnificent seat of the *Pagets*; now *Earl of Uxbridge*, is at a short distance; the appearance of the house exhibits a striking grandeur; and like his lordship's seat in *Anglesea*;
is

is embellished with extensive woods of large oaks, and other timber.

CANK HEATH, in a short time presents the traveller with a very different prospect; extensive, waste, and dreary: though formerly covered with oaks, which the avarice of despoilers has removed.

I TAKE the liberty here to insert some beautiful lines, truly descriptive of a denuded country, from Mr. *Pennant's Journey to London.*

A vast and naked plain confines the view,
Where trees unnumber'd in past ages grew,
The green retreat of wood-nymphs; once the boast,
The pride, the guardians of their native coast.
Alas! how chang'd! each venerable oak
Long since has yielded to the woodman's stroke;
Where'er the cheerless prospect meets the eye,
No shrub, no plant, except the Heath, is nigh;

The

The solitary Heath alone is there,
And wafts it's sweetness in the desert air.
So sweet it's scent, so rich it's purple hue,
We half forget that here a forest grew.

THE road here, through a pleasant fertile country, ascends until we come within sight of *Lichfield*, 18 miles from *Stafford*; a City that contains one of the finest cathedrals in the kingdom, and was founded so early as 656; but the present elegant pile is supposed to have been built by *Bishop Langton*, about the year 1300, who was an unbounded benefactor to this church.

It was much injured during the civil wars, when the city underwent three sieges; *Cromwell's* adherents committing all sorts of outrages and profanation, in this, and every other church that they took possession of.

17

It might have been expected, from the professed sanctity of the *Round-heads*, that they would have refrained from destroying places of divine worship; but it was true, as a *Cavalier* once told one of these hypocrites, who was boasting that their soldiers were saints, whilst those of the *King's* army were profligates. — “*Yes, thou sayest true; for in our army, we have drinking and wenching, the sins of men; but in yours, you have those of Devils, spiritual pride and rebellion.*”

THE church was restored to its former splendour by *Bishop Hacket*, who immediately on his arrival here set about the work, and in eight years, expended *twenty thousand pounds*, in repairing, and beautifying this edifice. In 1789 it received another general repair.

THIS

THIS beautiful structure, deserves the notice of every traveller. Here are three other churches, and it had formerly several religious houses.

THE streets are spacious and the houses neat; many hands are employed here in making sail cloth. This city, and neighbourhood are much benefited by the *canal*, which comes very near it.

It is governed by a Recorder, high steward, sheriff, and two bailiffs, and has the power of life and death, within its own jurisdiction. The unfortunate *Richard II.* entertained his followers here, at *Christmas* 1397, with the extravagant quantity of two hundred tons of wine, and two thousand oxen; the same people that were witnesses

nesses of his profusion, were likewise, probably, spectators of his fallen greatness, and confinement here, in 1399.

HERE is a society of females, who meet annually for the purpose of collecting money, to be applied to the relief of poor families.—An example worthy of imitation.



LETTER,

LETTER, XV.

COVENTRY—

LEAVE *Lichfield*. Pass by *Swinfen*, where art and nature have combined, to make it the delightful residence of the *Swinfen's*. It may be observed here, as Dr. *Johnson* said to *Garrick*, when he show'd him his country seat, *David, David, such possessions as these, make a death bed terrible.*

R

THE meadows near *Weford*, exhibit, together with a rich fine pasture, a very pretty landscape. Cross *Weford common*, and soon come to *Sutton coldfield*, whose cold dreary aspect is in some measure refreshed, by the long range of woods on the left.

PASS a pretty house called *Mox-hul hall*, and cross *Curdworth bridge*; this part of the country exhibits a beautiful scenery, the town, and Church of *Colehill* terminating the view.

THIS market town stands on the ascent of a hill, near the river *Colne*; here is a piece of land, called *the pater noster piece*, the rent of which, is applied to the purpose of encouraging children to learn the Lord's prayer.

prayer. At the toll of a bell, each housekeeper, in their turn sends a child, who kneeling at the under master's feet, says the Prayer, and is rewarded with a penny.

This place was the seat of royalty before the conquest; it afterwards passed to the *Mountfords*, and now is in the possession of *Lord Digby*. In the church, are many very fine monuments, and tombs, in which are deposited, the ancestors of the present family; they deserve the notice of travellers. The old mansion house is suffered to decay.

ABOUT a mile from the road, is *Blitbehall*, formerly the seat of the noted antiquary, and historian, *Sir William Dugdale*. Pass by *Packington*, the seat of the *Earl of Alisford*;

isford; the old house has been lately much improved, and the grounds are most beautifully embellished with woods and water.

ARRIVE at the pleasant, and well accommodated Inn of *Meriden*; famous for its fine cellars, and excellent beer. The church stands on an adjacent eminence, and contains some curious old tombs. The land here, is of a stiff clayey nature; the pastures appear cold, with but little grass; the roads hereabout are much improved.

PASS through *Allesley*, and reach the antient city of *Coventry*, the half way between *Chester* and *London*. Here the antiquarian may find full employment, for some time, to explore the many antiquities, with
which

which this place abounds; the limits of my letter, will not permit me to particularize, or enumerate the whole; I shall therefore, from the best information that I can obtain, endeavour to give a brief account of its antient, and present state.

TRADITION says, that here was a nunnery, so early as the year 1016; on the ruins of which, *Leofric E. of Mercia*, and his Countess *Godeva*, founded a monastery.

IN those days it must have been populous; when that lady made so great a sacrifice to the interests of the inhabitants, as to ride naked through the town, to obtain for them an exemption from their taxes.

SHE

SHE was particularly fortunate in having so fine a head of hair, as to entirely cover her body; nor were the inhabitants deficient in their grateful endeavours to lessen her distress; by ordering every person, on pain of death, to keep themselves close within doors, during the time she rode; which order was religiously observed, except in the single instance of the *taylor*, whose curiosity tempted him *to take one peep*.

THE remembrance of her affection, is perpetuated, by a female riding annually through the city, in a flesh coloured silk, fitted close to her body.

THIS city was in 1355, enclosed within a strong wall, defended
by

by thirty-two towers, and had twelve gates, which were destroyed after the civil wars, as a punishment to the inhabitants, for having ungratefully shut them against their fovereign, *K. Charles I.*

THIS city had in the times of Romish superstition, its share of monks, friars, and nuns. One of these worthy prelates, took at one time, from a single beam of the house, silver, to the value of five hundred marks.

AT another time, one of the monks flew into a violent passion at the altar, and broke the head of the Bishop, with the holy cross; for which, the Pope expelled the fraternity.

IN

IN order to plead their cause, one of the monks went to *Rome*, and with tears solicited the Pope for their pardon ; which being refused, he told the Pope, “ *that he should wait patiently for his death,* “ *and solicit his successor. Here is* “ *a Devil of a fellow, cries his Ho-* “ *linefs, in great wrath to his atten-* “ *dants; by St. Peter! he shall not* “ *wait for my death; so I will not* “ *put him of any longer, but make* “ *out the purpose of his petition before* “ *I put a morsel more into my mouth.*

FROM this time they advanced in wealth, so as to be possessed of a revenue of £ 731 19s 5d; but the insatiable monarch *Henry VIII.* seized its revenues, and levelled the noble structure to the ground.

THE

THE imputation of ignorance, and laziness, to the monks, and friars of former times, is not well founded; they were the sole possessors, and cultivators, of what learning, and knowledge of the arts then existed; and it is to them, that we are now indebted, for the most beautiful structures that adorn these kingdoms; which are evidences of their taste, and skill in architecture, and of their zeal in the service of the Deity; nor do any of the modern edifices in the metropolis, erected for the devotion of nobility, afford equal satisfaction to the beholder.

THE present Church of St. *Michael*, is adorned with a steeple of matchless beauty: it's height one hundred and one yards. The church
S
of

of St. *John*, and the spire of *Trinity*, are also very handsome. Few travellers who come here are so incurious, as not to visit these beautiful edifices.

THE streets are narrow, and incommodious; the upper stories of the houses, which are chiefly of timber, project over each other, so as to cast a gloom into the whole street. It is supposed to contain upwards of twenty thousand inhabitants; many of whom find constant employment in making *Ribbons*; for which articles, in these days of elegance in dress, there are very great demands.

It is governed by a Mayor, recorder, two sheriffs, and ten aldermen; the magistrates have the
power

power of life and death. The bishoprick is joined to that of *Lichfield*; it is a distinct county of itself, and sends two members to parliament

THIS City, and neighbourhood, have felt the advantages arising from the canal; particularly in the article of coal. The taste of connoisseurs in painting, would be very highly gratified, by a sight of the fine collection of pictures, that are at *Coombe Abbey*, the seat of *Lord Craven*, which lies at a short distance from here.

LETTER,

LETTER, XVI.

DUNSTABLE—

LEAVE *Coventry*, cross a common, and soon ascend *Knightlow Hill*, or *Cross*, which is one, among forty towns in this hamlet, who are obliged to pay *Wroth money*, on every *Martinmas*s day in the morning, before sun rise: the party paying it, goes three times round the
Cross,

Cross, and says, *the wroth money*, and lays it in a hole of the cross before witness; the forfeiture for non observance, is 30s. and a white bull to the lord of the hamlet. The traveller is here presented with an extensive rich prospect.

I WAS pleased to see the great heath of *Dunsmore* enclosed; I am informed, that by a calculation of the admeasurement, of the different *wastes*, and *commons* in this kingdom; that they amount to the enormous number of *ten millions of acres*.

ONE of our most patriotic, and able statesmen, in a speech in the House of Commons asserted, that, *We owe our wealth, and safety to an ACORN*. The loss of so many acres, argues a great neglect of the means,

PASS

PASS near *Willoughby*, a small market town, animated by the introduction of commerce, which the canal has brought here; and benefited by having coal to burn, instead of horse dung.

PASS through *Braunston*, where we were informed a widow can hold her husband's copy lands for life; on presenting a leathern purse, with a groat in it, to the next court, held after her husband's death. The late enclosures made in the country, through which we have passed, greatly enliven its appearance.

ARRIVE at *Daventry*, 19 miles from *Coventry*, a populous incorporated town; upon the *Roman Watling-street*, between *Dover* and *Chester*; the *Romans*, and in after-times.

times, the *Saxons* had encampments here. The conqueror bestowed very large possessions here, on his niece, whom he married to the *Earl of Northumberland*; who at the instigation of his wife he beheaded, and afterwards doomed her to perpetual widowhood, for refusing her hand to a *Norman* nobleman.

HERE was formerly a Priory, but the rapacious *Woolsey* dissolved the house, and appropriated its income to his own college. The present church is a handsome building: great quantities of whips are manufactured here.

PASS within two miles of *Stow*
nine Churches, where the admirers
 of monumental sculpture will be
 much

much entertained. Ride through an uneven country, and passing by *Foster's Booth*, arrive at *Towcester*.

THIS is a handsome old market town, and very populous, abounding with very good inns. It was a *Roman* station; the *Danes* attempted once, in vain, to reduce it. There was formerly a Priory here, it has now only one large church. Silk stockings, and lace, are manufactured here in great quantities.

QUEEN *Elizabeth* was the first person who wore *silk stockings* in *England*; her successor K. *James I.* was obliged to borrow a pair, on a public occasion. *Easton Neston*, the seat of *Earl Pomfret*, stands at a few miles distance from *Toucester*; in the church are some handsome monuments of the *Fermors*.

THE trees in *Whittlebury Forest* are seen to rear their heads, and range for upwards of nine miles in length, the deep clay, being the sort of soil that the lusty oak delights in. There are many deer in the forest; and the *wild cat* has continued an inhabitant of these woods, since the time of K. *Richard I.*

THE *Duke of Grafton* is Ranger, and has an elegant mansion here, called *Wakefield Lodge*; originally built by Mr. *Claypole*, son in law to *Oliver Cromwell*.

RIDE through *old Stratford*; we saw many fine cattle grazing in rich meadows. Cross the river *Ouze*, and arrive at *Stoney Stratford*; a market town, in which the houses are modern, and range on each

T

side

side the street; the town was nearly destroyed by fire, in 1742. K. *Edward I.* erected one of the crosses here, in memory of his *Queen Eleanor*; A very considerable trade is carried on here, in making bone lace.

AT a short distance is *Blecheley Church*, where the curious traveller may be tempted to go, to see the beautiful tombs, and monuments it contains.

PASS through *Fenny Stratford*, and ride along a descent of a few miles to *Hockley in the Hole*, a village that consists almost entirely of Inns; near to which stands *Battlefden* house, and park, embellished with fine woods.

AFTER

AFTER a few miles ride, come to *Cbalk Hill*, which, when I travelled here before, was a steep precipice, but now is a gradual ascent. There were formerly several gibbets, of mail, and other robbers, erected here, designed *in terrorem* to deter men from the commission of such crimes; but by the continuance of the practice of robbing, if every delinquent had been hung in chains, the road might probably have been decorated with gibbets, from *London*, to *Coventry*. The stratum of *chalk*, which intersects the kingdom, commences here; it was a great article of commerce, in the time of the *Romans*.

LETTER,

LETTER, XVII.

HIGHGATE—

ARRIVE at *Dunstable*, a large market town, and was a *Roman* station, being on the *Watling-street* road. *Henry I.* to extirpate a gang of robbers, cut down the forests, and built a palace here, called *Kingsbury*, (now a farm house,) he likewise, with his court, celebrated his
Christmas

Christmasts here in 1123, and granted great privileges to the inhabitants.

HERE was a *Priory of black Canons* at the Reformation, instituted by K. *Henry I.* the revenues were valued at 3 or 400*l.* The church was built about the year 1273.

THIS town is a great thoroughfare for travellers, the *Inns* are remarkably elegant. The uxorious monarch *Edward I.* erected a cross here, in memory of his *Queen Eleanor*. Great numbers of women and children, find employment here, in making *Straw hats, baskets*, and other articles, in which they show much ingenuity.

THE

THE soil here, is a gravelly loam, the culture, seemingly very good; land sets at about fourteen shillings an acre. The *Dunstable larks* are famous for being the largest, and best in the kingdom,

PASS through *Redburn*, where the two Martyrs *St. Alban*, and *St. Amphibalus* are said to have been interred. Here the soil abounds with flinty stones; the improvement made use of by the farmers is *chalk*, which endures for many years, without being renewed.

GORHAMBURY, formerly belonging to the abbey of *St. Albans*, and afterwards the paternal estate of the great *Sir Francis Bacon*, *Lord Verulam*, stands at a short distance; it is an antient grand structure,

ture, including some very magnificent rooms, which are embellished with a most capital collection of portraits of great personages; it is now the seat of *Lord Grimstone*.

SOON reach the antient *Verulamium*, which was a strong post of the *Britons* before the invasion of *Julius Cæsar*; and being the capital of the country, was at that time the residence of its princes, and had its mint, for coining money.

THE great fragments of thick walls, together with a vast foss, are evidences of its having been a *Roman City*, and by them fortified in the strongest manner.

THE walls encircled the City;
they were formed of layers of flints
and

and mortar, with courses, or tiers of brick, interlayed at distances, of between two and three feet. The *Roman* bricks were not always made uniform in size. It was, together with some other cities, sacked by the furious *Boadicea*; who put upwards of seventy thousand persons to death, for their attachment to the religion, and customs of the *Romans*.

HERE were formerly subterraneous passages, and vaults, probably intended for places of retreat, and security in time of war.

ST. ALBANS arose from the ruins of *Verulamium*, and took its name from *Alban*, the first *English Martyr*, who suffered under the persecution of *Dioclesian*; *Offa*, King of the *Mercians*,

Mercians, erected a very fine monastery here, and endowed it with a great revenue. It was formerly the residence of the *Saxon Princes*, and *Mitred Abbots*.

THERE are no vestiges of this once magnificent Abbey remaining now, except the gate-way; the murderous hand of time, has removed a structure, which once held the bones of this famous Martyr, enclosed in a *Golden Shrine*.

It was the great resort of Pilgrims, and was possessed of a vast revenue, and great riches, which if they had been applied to the repairs of the building, might have continued its splendour, even to this time; but the reforming spirit
U of

of *Henry VIII.* dissolved this, with all other religious houses in 1538.

THE antient Abbots, are said to have dined in a great hall, seated on an elevated part, and to have been served on plate, by the monks; the other religious, and guests, placing themselves at the tables along the sides of the hall.

THE present church is very antient, and is ornamented with a fine tower, upwards of one hundred and forty feet high; it seems to have been built, or repaired at different times.

The Choir is in the *Gothic* stile, embellished with fine old tabernacle work. The high altar is a beautiful specimen of *gothic* sculpture;
in

in the niches, were formerly placed images of gold and silver. A small gallery yet remains, in which a monk was used to keep continual watch over these valuable treasures.

HERE are several very magnificent tombs; amongst which, are those of K. *Offa*, *St. Alban*, *Humphry Duke of Gloucester*, and Abbot *Ramridge*; there are other monuments of mitred Abbots, and warriors, worthy the notice of the curious traveller.

It is governed by a Mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, and twenty-four assistants. The town was formerly fortified, and was the scene of horrid slaughter, both in the *Baron's* wars, as likewise in the civil wars, between the Houses of *York*, and *Lancaster*.

THE two famous battles fought here, stand distinguished in the history of those dreadful times.

PASS through *London Colney*, a small village, and in a short ride ascend *Ridge hill*, from the top of which, the traveller is treated with a beautiful, and extensive prospect

PASS *South Mims*; and *Wrotham Park*, an elegant house, built by the unfortunate *Admiral John Byng*, who though acquitted of cowardice, or disaffection, by the *Court Martial*, was shot for *an Error in Judgement*. But it is thought now, that if some other persons had been executed for the failure of that expedition; that their sentence would have borne a more malignant term, than that, to which the poor *Admiral* fell a sacrifice.

IN a short ride reach *Barnet* where there is a famous market for swine, and other cattle. The Church is antient; and here are alms houses, and other charitable institutions.

ON *Barnet Common* a Column is erected, to commemorate the Battle which was fought here, between the *Yorkists*, and *Lancastrians*, on the 14th of *April*, 1471. when the *King maker*, *Warwick*, was totally defeated, and slain, and *Edward IV.* restored to his throne.

THE conflict lasted from four o'clock in the morning, until ten at night, and many thousands of brave men fell on that day.

THE pleasant village of *Hadley* is at a small distance; the Church
is

is built of flint stones, the date over the door, is 1498; and on the steeple there is yet to be seen, an iron pitch-pot, which was formerly used to be set on fire, for the purpose of alarming the country, in troublesome times, or upon an invasion; these sort of beacons were first directed by K. *Edward III.*

THIS village is upon the skirt of *Enfield Chase*, which continued to be a large forest, till the year 1778, when it was enclosed, and measured eight thousand, three hundred, and ninety-four acres.

PASS over the extensive Common of *Finchley*, which the traveller, a few years ago, crossed in fear, apprehending a visit from the numerous gangs of highwaymen, that infested

infested this road. The *Mail Coaches*, which now are passing at all hours; having a *Guard*, always properly armed, may probably account for the less frequency of robberies in these parts.

HIGHGATE now presents itself on an eminence, which overlooks the the whole Metropolis. A toll-gate was set up here, more than four hundred years ago, by the *Bishop of London*, which was afterwards farmed by *Q. Elizabeth*, at 40l. a year. Some of the public houses have a large pair of horns placed over the sign, and when any travellers stop for refreshment, the horns are produced, and they are pressingy solicited to be sworn. If they consent, a burlesque kind of oath is administered, *that they will never eat brown*

brown bread, when they can get white,
and several other declarations, of
the like sort, which they repeat with
one hand placed upon the horns. If
a female is sworn, she has a pri-
vilege to say, *except I like the other*
better. The ceremony being over,
they kiss the horns, and pay one
shilling, to be spent by the company.

IN a short ride of five miles I
arrived at the Metropolis.

FINIS.



